THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of entry fee for night viewing of Taj Mahal is as follows:

Indian	—	Rs. 510/- per head
Others	—	Rs. 750/- per head
Children (from 03-15 years)	—	Rs. 500/- per head

(c) The rate of entry fee for night viewing was fixed, based on the additional cost for providing security, and for regulating the numebr of visitors as the Supreme Court's permission is for allowing only 400 visitors per night.

Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

2632. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra asked for permission to install statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Megh Dambri at Raigad Fort at Raigad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to give the permission?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India has received a request from the Government of Maharashtra for installation of a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in Megh Dambri at fort Raigad. The proposal was carefully examined in detail and a view has been taken by the Central Government that the installation of above statue in Megh Dambri in Raigad Fort, which is a protected monument of national importance will not only contravene the provisions of the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, but will also affect the original ambience, ancient features & aesthetic view of the monument.

Shaking minarets of Ahmedabad

2633. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shaking minarets of Ahmedabad stopped

shaking after ASI carried out some repairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any initiatives to undo the damage done to the minarets by ill-planned repairs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No ill-planned repairs have been done. After the earthquake of 2001 the conservation work for the damaged minarets of the monuments protected by Archaeological Survey of India has been attended to with utmost care.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Qutab iron Pillar

2634. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a penal of scientists have sought permission to allow research on sixteenth century Qutab Iron Pillar, Delhi to solve the mystery as why its malleble metal is impervious to rust;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether permission has been granted;

(c) whether any such study/research was also carried out previously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir, the Archaeological Survey of India has not received any request recently for such a research.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.